



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**July 28, 2004**

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**PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS**

**“OPERATION MOVING DAY”**

**DOVER MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL WEAPONS CHARGES**

**United States v. Jeremy JOHNSON**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. Attorney General Kelly Ayotte, Clifford Ellston, Resident Agent in Charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and Dover Police Chief William Fenniman, announced that Jeremy JOHNSON, 24, of Dover, New Hampshire was convicted on July 28, 2004 of federal weapons charges.

JOHNSON entered a guilty plea to an information charging him with being in possession of a shotgun with an obliterated serial number in Dover on March 9, 2004. JOHNSON was detained without bail by U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. pending his sentencing hearing to be held in U.S. District Court in Concord on October 29, 2004. He faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 5 years.

JOHNSON was arrested by ATF and New Hampshire Drug Task Force officers on May 10, 2004 as part of “Operation Moving Day,” an undercover investigation into drug and firearm distribution in and around the Dover Housing Authority apartment complex. According to an affidavit in support of a Criminal Complaint issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James Muirhead on May 6, 2004, JOHNSON sold firearms with obliterated serial numbers and a small quantity of heroin to an undercover detective in the area of the Dover Housing Authority apartment complex during February and March, 2004.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: “This case exemplifies this Office’s commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft’s “Project Safe Neighborhoods” initiative. This case involved cooperative investigative and

enforcement efforts by a federal agency (ATF), a state agency (the N.H. Drug Task Force), and a local agency (the Dover Police Dept.). Prosecuting unlawful trafficking in firearms is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire, and to work closely with our partners at the federal, state, and local levels.”

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws. Attorney General John Ashcroft recently called Project Safe Neighborhoods “a revolutionary campaign against gun crime in America.”

The prosecution against JOHNSON, part of the Department of Justice’s “Project Safe Neighborhoods” (PSN) initiative, resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the N.H. Attorney General’s Drug Task Force, and the Dover Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.